(ii) Any offence punishable with imprisonment or deprivation of liberty for a period of one year or more will be an extraditable offence.

(iii) Extraditon shall not be granted for political offences. The Treaty contains a list of offences which will not be considered as offences of a political character.

(iv) The Contracting States are not bound to extradite their own nationals, and they would be prosecuted by the Requested State in respect of the offence(s) in question.

Chinese plan to lay railway line in Lhasa

†538. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is laying down or have decided to lay down the highest railway line of the world upto Lhasa;

(b) if so, what would be its impact on different works including security of the country and whether Government have lodged any objection with China; and

(c) if so, Chinese reaction and decision thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. China is constructing a railway line from Golmud in Qinghai Province to Lhasa.

(b) and (c) Government has taken note of this development Government remains vigilant and takes all necessary and appropriate measures to safeguard the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of India.

Visa relaxation to Pakistani Nationals

539. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have further given relaxation of the visa regime for Pakistani nationals recently aimed at winning Pakistani hearts and to improve trade relations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.